

million jobs the President hopes for, we could create 13 million jobs directly in construction, with a huge spillover in economic activity across the country.

There is a very viable alternative: do not borrow money to give to a few people. Never have we borrowed so much to give to so few.

GOVERNMENT WASTE

(Mr. CHOCOLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress from a business background, and I ran for Congress in large part because I believe that we need more of a small business perspective here in Washington, especially when it comes to eliminating wasteful spending.

Every day, the families and businesses in my district have to make tough decisions. They have to meet a payroll, they have to live within a budget, and small businesses and families must eliminate wasteful spending. I do not think the Federal Government should be any different.

This year the Heritage Foundation identified \$386 billion of wasteful Federal Government spending. Mr. Speaker, that was \$386 billion. If Congress would only eliminate waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in the Federal Government, we could save the taxpayers billions and billions of dollars.

But it is not enough to just complain. We have to do something about it. This week the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and the Committee on the Budget chairman, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), announced a significant effort to root out and eliminate government waste during the 108th Congress. I applaud their effort, and I pledge that I will join them and my colleagues to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in government in my time in Congress. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in this effort.

ON RAISING THE DEBT LIMIT

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, at the very time negotiators are putting the final touches on a tax cut that will add several hundred billion dollars to our national debt, the leadership in Congress is planning on slipping through the largest increase in the debt limits in the history of our country, without any debate up or down.

We are about to engage in brinkmanship with the full faith and credit of the United States Government by adjourning before Congress completes action on the debt limit, in order to force the other body to approve the largest debt limit in history. We are going to cut and run.

Mr. Speaker, I am willing to support a temporary increase in the debt limit. In a few moments I will offer a unanimous consent request to approve legislation providing for an increase in the debt limit through the end of the current fiscal year, with the requirement that the President submit a plan to bring our budget back into balance. This will allow us the time to consider a long-term larger increase with the deliberation the serious matter deserves.

If my friends on the other sides of the aisle honestly believe that tax cuts with borrowed money is good economic policy, they should stand up and vote to increase the national debt to pay for their tax cuts, relying on parliamentary maneuvers to avoid an up-or-down vote on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, in light of this, I ask unanimous consent that the House end this charade of borrowing money to pay for tax cuts and immediately take up H.R. 2156, which provides a temporary increase in the public debt, but makes no room for additional debt-financed tax cuts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under the Speaker's consistent guidelines, the gentleman is not recognized for that purpose, and his time has expired.

KEEPING MONEY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, it is really very simple: there is waste in the private sector, just like there is waste in the public sector; but the waste in the business world pales in comparison to the waste in government. Thus, every dollar we can keep in the private sector creates more jobs and lowers more prices. We get more bang for the buck, so to speak, from every dollar kept in private hands.

Who benefits the most from having more jobs and lower prices? The poor and lower-income and working people of this country. This has been proven time and again all over the world. Small government means a good economy. Too much government means a starvation economy where the middle class gets wiped out.

Mr. Speaker, that is what this tax cut is all about. If people really want to help the lower-income and working people of this country, they will support the President's tax cut initiative.

ECONOMIC CLASS WARFARE

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax plan is nothing more than voodoo economics. Only in Washington would Republicans tell average

American families that raising their national debt is a way to solve this economy's malaise. Raising their debt.

This is not a \$350 billion tax package; it is a \$1 trillion tax package, because no one believes that it will be ultimately eliminated once it is enacted. And that \$1 trillion tax package is a job killer, not a job creator. Ask the 2 million-plus jobs we have already lost under the original Bush tax plan.

And, yes, it has a child tax credit; but then, before you know it, it is taken away and eliminated. But guess what is not eliminated? The accelerated reductions in the top income tax. They are forever. Child tax credit: here today, gone tomorrow. Top tax relief: there forever. That is class warfare.

FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES TAKING AMERICAN JOBS

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, one of the fastest growing companies in America today is Federal Prison Industries. In the last 2 weeks they have unveiled a brand-new scheme to take jobs from the private sector and move them into Federal Prison Industries.

Their new scheme is, under competitive bidding, companies come in and present their bids; and at the opening, companies get excited because they have won the bid. But Federal Prison Industries comes in and says no, no, no, you do not understand the new bidding process. Give us your bid. We will take a look at it, and then there will be a second round of bidding. But the only company that gets to bid in the second round is Federal Prison Industries.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop this charade. It is time to provide best value to government contractors. Let the bidding process work. Let American workers compete against Federal prisons, so they can keep their jobs.

TAX CUT PLAN A FRAUD AND FAILURE

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the common sense of the American people who, after weeks of stumping by the President, have concluded that this alleged tax cut plan is a fraud and a failure.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Americans two to one have concluded that this plan will have no real effect on U.S. economic performance, and the American people are right. Six out of ten Americans have concluded that this plan shortchanges job creation in favor of tax cuts weighted to the rich; six out of ten Americans have concluded that this tax cut plan benefits the wealthy more than average people; and six out of ten Americans